



EXPLORING YOUNG WOMENS' LEADERSHIP

The Etty Hillesum Fellowship

WHO WAS ETTY HILLESUM?



Etty Hillesum was a Dutch Jewish woman who chronicled her remarkable transformation during the Nazi

occupation of Amsterdam until her death in Auschwitz in 1943 at the age of 29. Tempted by the continual choice to give into the degradation and hatred surrounding her, she turned inward to "route out the rottenness inside." Through understanding the battle within herself, she came to realize that nothing could stop her from "mobilizing her inner forces." In 1942, during the first round-ups of Jews, Etty Hillesum volunteered as a social worker to accompany and assist young Jewish women being deported from Amsterdam and wrote with great wisdom about the unconquerable beauty of the individual spirit.

*"And if I am not able to live on,
somebody else will do it.
carry on from where my life has
been cut short. I must try to live a
good life to my last breath:
so that those who come after me
don't have to start all over again."*
—Etty Hillesum

THE FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship is part of the **Exploring Young Women's Leadership Program (EYWL)**, a two-tiered mentorship program for young women in college and high school. In partnership with **Facing History and Ourselves**, this program uses Etty Hillesum's writing as a springboard to explore the meaning of leadership and mentorship in the participants' lives.

Twenty university women will gather together for discussion, self-reflection and an interactive mentorship workshop with high school aged women. Fellows will see *The Wrestling Patient*, a new play inspired by the diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum, and participate in a post-performance discussion with the actors, playwright and co-creators about the production.

Exploring the subjects of identity and otherness, the Hillesum Fellows will assist the EYWL creative team in leading 50 high school aged women in an interactive workshop using curriculum designed by Facing History and Ourselves.

WHEN Friday February 20, 4-6pm and March 13, 4-6pm
March 29, 2:30-6:30pm and April 7, 12:00-4:00pm

WHERE Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center (Waltham, MA)
Boston Center for the Arts (Boston's South End)

REQUIREMENTS Etty Hillesum Fellows must demonstrate a sustained interest in either theater, gender studies, or Jewish history and be committed to connecting with each other and younger women. They must attend all meetings.

APPLY Submit a 250-word essay on your own experience of powerful mentors, either living or literary, and your interest in being a mentor to others.
Applications are due by January 25, 2008. Please direct all applications and questions to Fellowship Coordinator Elise Manning at elise@wrestlingpatient.org or call (781) 648-1187.

THE WRESTLING PATIENT

Written by Kirk Lynn in collaboration with critically acclaimed Boston actress Anne Gottlieb and Obie Award-winner Katie Pearl, *The Wrestling Patient* is about a young woman who is confronted with a remarkable choice: to hold onto a kind of integrity, or to save her own life as WWII engulfs her native Amsterdam and her family. With the help of a charismatic teacher, Etty wrestles to answer the demons of her time by looking within herself.

SpeakEasy Stage Company is proud to join **Boston Playwrights' Theatre** and **FortyMagnolias Productions** for this World Premiere event opening on March 27 and running through April 11, 2009 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.